

# **ROCKPORT COUNCIL ON AGING**

## **MINUTES FROM TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2015**

Present: Faye Anderson, Chairman, Diane Bertolino, Director, Roger Lesch, Maureen Beeley, Shirley Conway, Joanne Wood, Donald Sudbay, Gilbert McCarthy.

Absent: Christine Marek, Sue Terry.

Also attending: Diane Derow.

**Distribution:** Minutes from Tuesday, November 18, 2014. Agenda November 18, 2014, Director's Report December 2014, January 2015, February 2015. Town Budget Balances FY 14, State Elder Affairs Grant Balance FY 14, November Expenditures/Deposits 2014, December Expenditures/Deposits 2014, January Expenditures/Deposits 2015, January Expenditures/Deposits 2015, February Expenditures/Deposits 2015, March 2015 Senior Center Activities Calendar, November/December 2014 Client Count for Activities, January 2015 Client Count for Activities, Rescheduling of times for activities due to sharing of facilities, Copy of survey to be sent to seniors.

**Meeting called to order: 6:05 p.m.**

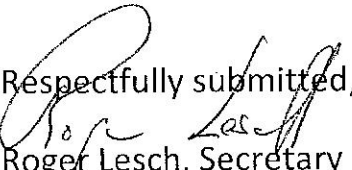
**Minutes from Tuesday, November 18, 2014.** Motion to accept by Don Sudbay. Second Shirley Conway. Unanimous.

**Director's Report:** See attached.

**Finances:** Diane asked that an outstanding bill to W.B. Mason be paid. Also outstanding bill from CATA for July-December, 2014( \$1, ~~0~~368.00) Motion to pay bills by Roger Lesch. Second by Gil McCarthy. Unanimous.

**Letters to Board of Selectmen:** Faye Anderson spoke regarding letters she sent to the Board of Selectmen stating the need for more room for activities for the COA at the Community House. The letter also spoke of the need for a van for transporting seniors. A second letter was in regard to cobblestones being considered for the end of Bearskin Neck and their lack of stable footing for seniors. It also recommended that any additional benches placed in public areas have arms and appropriate height similar to the ones at the Community House.

**Meeting Adjourned 6:52 p.m.** Motion by Roger Lesch. Seconded by Joanne Wood. Unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,  
  
Roger Lesch, Secretary

## Director's Report

December 2014, January 2015, February 2015

During the month of December, the senior center held two wreath decorating classes, a trip to the Merrimack premium outlets for holiday shopping, and a luncheon with entertainment by an a cappella vocal group. The senior center continued with yoga, strength/balance, arthritis, tai chi, duplicate bridge, scrabble, senior mobile market, and quilting/knitting.

In January, we began with a snow day on Friday, January 2<sup>nd</sup>. We added an additional yoga class on Monday afternoons. The class began with a total of 21 people. The month was very challenging as we were closed on January 27<sup>th</sup>, due to snow and we opened January 28<sup>th</sup> at noon. We had no heat when we arrived. The temperature was 47 degrees. We had no classes, meals or seniors here that day. Paula and I were here working with our coats on. They were clearing the outside when I arrived and I notified Chuck Osmond that there was no heat. Heat was restored that afternoon but it took a long time to get up to temperature. When we left, it was 60 degrees.

In February, we were closed on Monday, February 2<sup>nd</sup> and had no classes on February 3<sup>rd</sup>. Again, there was no heat on this Tuesday. I called the DPW and they contacted Todd Oil to come to fix the heat. Todd Oil fixed the temperature and it was increasing. Later that afternoon, the temperature dropped and I called DPW again. Todd Oil returned and the heat was fixed reaching 70 degrees at 3:00 p.m. We were closed February 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> due to another storm. We have had to cancel our Valentine Tea, Jewelry classes, yoga classes, bingo, and art classes. Seniors did not come because of parking, and handicap accessibility. This has been a very challenging month. The DPW Director, his office staff, and the prisoners from the Sheriff's Department have shovelled us out. This past Friday, Joe Parisi contacted me as he was not sure what shape we would be in for today. The people who usually come to eat here have been put on home delivered meals until they will be able to return. We have been rescheduling our programs.

We have been working on additional programs specifically for men. We have a Red Sox game scheduled for April 15<sup>th</sup>. We are researching folding ping pong tables, Mexican train dominoes, and a possible woodworking class for men (ex. bird house building).

I met with Steve Winslow who works for Mass in Motion out of the city of Gloucester. I talked about our needs. I told him we need a mini bus for people to have access to the grocery store and the farmer's market. He also has other things he is researching in Rockport such as rights of way and street safety. He will work on the one that the Selectmen feel is most needed.

Most COA's insurance for the vans are paid with the Town's overall insurance policy. One company I called said the costs could be \$3,000-5,000 depending on how much liability insurance they have. Drivers are paid between \$16.89-18.50.

The newsletter is at the printers. We included the survey with this month's newsletter.

Upcoming events include low vision talk, antique appraisals, AARP tax help-until April 14<sup>th</sup>, digital camera class, birthday party every 2 months, due to low attendance each month, 2 art classes, Essex Technical High School luncheon, Red Sox game and Twin River Casino.

We received a Rockport Cultural council grant for \$225.00 for a theatre performance scheduled for May.